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52
AUG

DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN



Chill
96

McFARLANE
1996

image® COMICS PRESENTS:

"MESSIAH"



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Spawn #51 Summary:

Spawn freefalls through the levels of Hell where he undergoes a physical and psychological baptism. As the symbiotic costume begins to peel itself from its necroplasmic host, layer after layer of Al Simmons' life as it was on earth is peeled away. The weaknesses that damned him are exposed. Finally, to remove the last human vestiges from him, the ruler of the territory rips Al's heart from his necroplasmic body as Malebolgia makes plans for Spawn to take his place as a General in Hell's army. Meanwhile, Terry's doctors are still puzzled over his miraculous recovery. Wanda admits that she also has difficulty with it while Cyan stubbornly refuses to give up a filthy shoelace (Spawn's) she found at the hospital. Elsewhere in the city, Sam introduces Twitch to their new '55 Chevy Crimemobile.

FOR IMAGE COMICS
LARRY MARDER - exec. director

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CHECK OUT THE SPAWN WEB SITE AT... <http://www.spawn.com>





THROUGH THE CENTURIES IT'S TOUCHED LITERALLY MILLIONS OF LIVES-- SOME THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT, OTHERS MERELY THE VICTIMS OF FALLOUT THEY WEREN'T EVEN AWARE OF. IT'S MERE EXISTENCE HAS CAUSED A RIPPLE EFFECT THAT SWALLOWED MANY WORTHY OF DEATH AND THOUSANDS OF INNOCENTS WHOSE ONLY 'CRIME' WAS TO BE CAUGHT IN ITS WAKE.

ITS TIME HAS COME AGAIN. IT IS NOW IN EVIDENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY TWO HUNDRED YEARS:

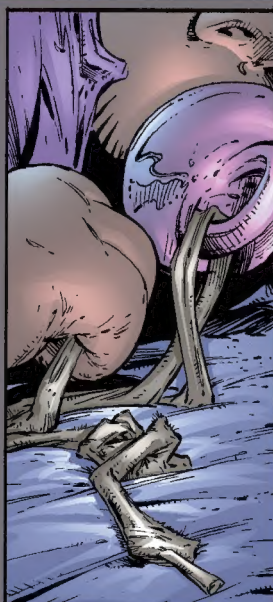
THE HELLSPAWN. AND THE CURSE HE BRINGS WITH HIM.

AT FIRST, THE CREATURE IS DISORIENTED FROM THE TRANSFORMATION AND HAS ONLY LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPLICATIONS. AS A RESULT, THE NEW SPAWN WARRIOR THINKS OF THINGS ON A PERSONAL LEVEL EXCLUSIVELY, TRYING DESPERATELY TO MAKE SENSE OF HIS RETURN FROM THE GRAVE. IT'S AT THIS TIME THE METAPHORICAL PEBBLE HITS THE WATER AND THE OUTWARD RIPPLING BEGINS. HELL SMILES, ANTICIPATING THE AVALANCHE OF SOULS TO BE DELIVERED SOON TO THE FLAMING PITS-- GROWING THE ARMIES WHICH WILL ONE DAY OPPOSE HEAVEN.

THE OFFICER-IN-TRAINING GRASPS NONE OF THIS, AS HE IS CONSUMED BY THE URGE TO REGAIN A LIFE NOW FOREVER LOST.

ALL OF WHICH BRINGS US NOW TO THIS QUIET, NONDESCRIPT HOUSE-- WHICH, AT FIRST GLANCE, APPEARS TO BE JUST LIKE THE OTHER HOUSES ON THE BLOCK. AND, IN FACT, IT IS. THOSE WHO LIVE WITHIN ITS WALLS ARE WHAT MAKE IT DIFFERENT. ARE WHAT MAKE IT CURSED.

FOR THEY HAVE **ALL** BEEN TOUCHED.



THIS ONE HAS BEEN AT THE GREATEST DISTANCE FROM THE CREATURE. SHE HAS HAD BUT A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH THE SPAWN WHILE HE WAS IN THE GUISE OF ANOTHER. IT'S HER MOTHER AND FATHER WHO'VE BEEN ENMESHED IN THE TRAUMA OF HELL'S NEW WARRIOR.

THAT SITUATION HAS CHANGED.

WHEN SHE FOUND IT AT THE HOSPITAL, SHE FELT THE SAME AS WHEN SHE'S GOTTEN PRESENTS AT CHRISTMAS. WHY? SHE DIDN'T KNOW. IT WAS ONLY A DIRTY OLD SHOELACE, BUT SHE FELT COMPELLED TO TURN IT INTO SOME KIND OF TREASURE. SO, SHE DUG OUT A SOOTHER SHE HADN'T USED IN OVER FOURTEEN MONTHS AND MADE HERSELF A NECKLACE. TONIGHT, SHE WENT BACK TO SUCKING THE SOOTHER, FEELING AN ATTACHMENT TO HER NEWFOUND GIFT--

--THE SHOELACE--

--THE UNSUSPECTED EVIDENCE THAT SOMETHING OR SOMEONE HAD INTERVENED AGAINST HER FATHER'S IRREVERSABLE ILLNESS.

JUST DOWN THE HALL RESTS HER MOTHER. SHE WAS ONCE MARRIED TO A MAN NAMED AL SIMMONS. HE DIED OVER FIVE YEARS AGO, "IN DEFENSE OF HIS COUNTRY"... OR SO SHE WAS TOLD. AT HIS GRAVESITE, THEY GAVE HER AN AMERICAN FLAG AS A TOKEN OF HIS NATION'S GRATITUDE. THOUGH THANKFUL FOR IT, SHE HELD IN HER FIST A MOMENTO OF FAR GREATER VALUE:

HER WEDDING BAND.

IT WAS NEARLY A YEAR BEFORE SHE PUT IT ASIDE, AT THE TIME WHEN SHE STARTED DATING ANOTHER MAN, TERRY FITZGERALD... AL'S BEST FRIEND. TERRY BROUGHT HAPPINESS INTO HER LIFE. THEY MARRIED ANOTHER YEAR LATER. AND YET, HER FIRST RING STILL SITS NO MORE THAN ARM'S-LENGTH AWAY-- FOREVER KEEPING AL'S MEMORY ALIVE.

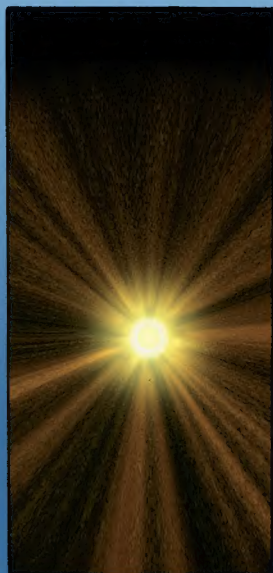
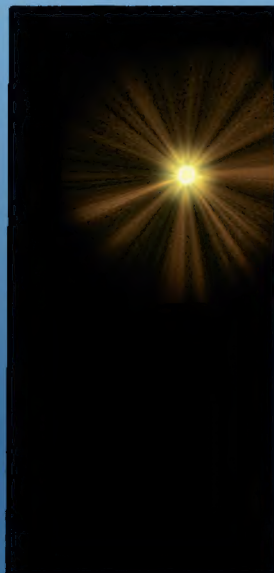
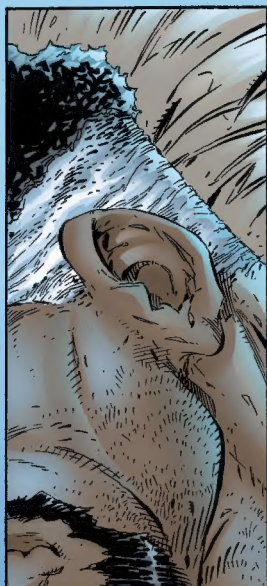
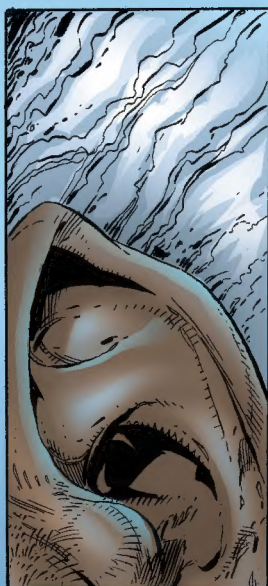
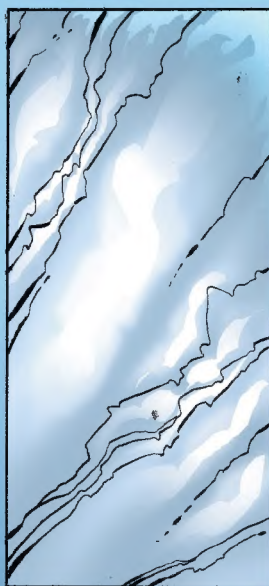
SHE IS UNAWARE THAT THE THING CALLED "SPAWN" -- THE CREATURE WHO FILLS HER WITH FEAR AND ANXIETY-- IS HER FORMER LOVE, RETURNED FROM THE DEAD.



IT'S BEEN OVER THREE HOURS SINCE HE CLOSED HIS EYES, YET THE SLEEP HE SO DESPERATELY WANTS CONTINUES TO EVADE HIM. SINCE HIS "MIRACULOUS" CURE FROM CANCER, REST HASN'T COME EASY. THE DREAMS... OR ARE THEY NIGHTMARES?... CREEP INTO HIS SUBCONSCIOUS, FLASHING RANDOM, SENSELESS IMAGES. FRUSTRATED BY THEIR AMBIGUITY, TERRY LIES THERE IN THE DARK, TRYING TO PIECE THIS PUZZLE TOGETHER.

THE ONLY PHYSICAL CLUE TO HIS RECOVERY -- THE BIZARRE, OVERLOOKED DETAIL -- LIES NOW IN A CRIB, NEXT TO HIS DAUGHTER: THE SHOELACE RIPPED FROM THE VISAGE OF THE HELLSPAWN DURING THE MOMENT OF THAT CREATURE'S UNWILLING, LIFESAVING GESTURE.

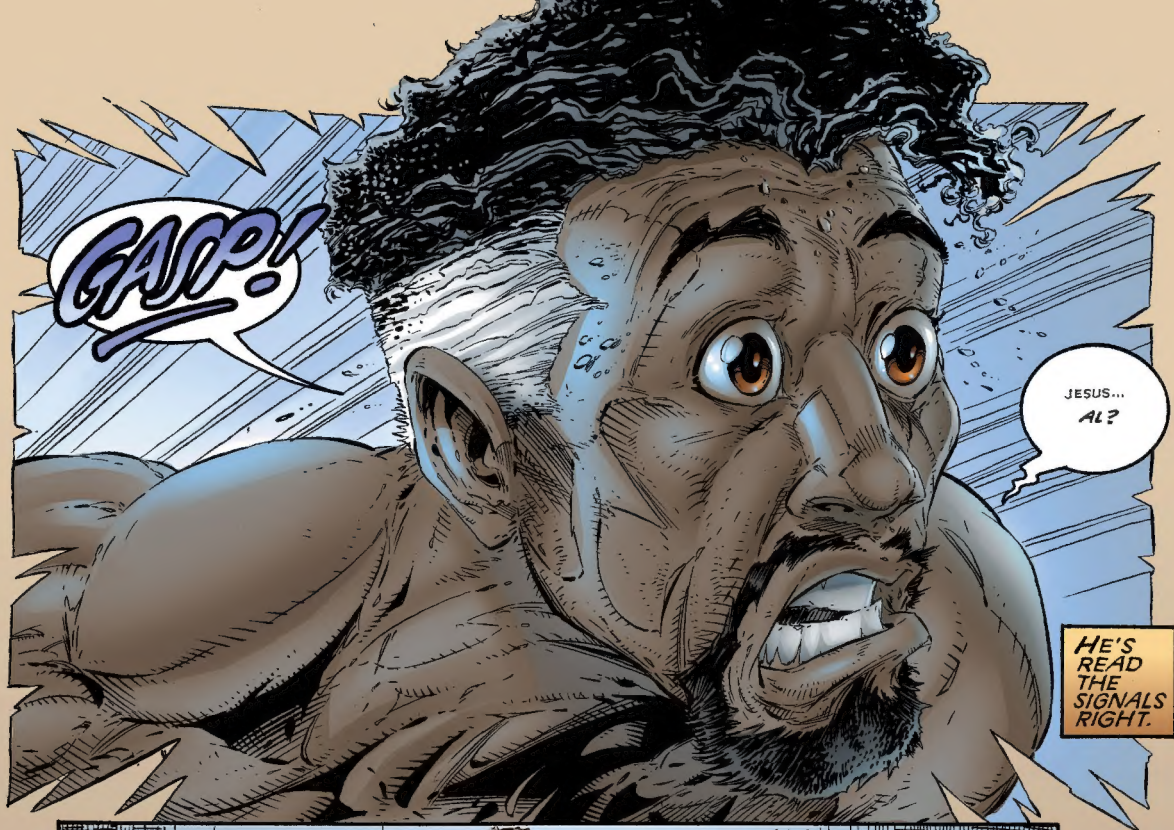
TO CURE TERRY. OUT OF LOVE FOR WANDA.



HE'D BEEN WARNED, THE HELLSPAWN HAD, AGAINST USING SUCH A SUDDEN BURST OF ENERGY. GIVEN THE UNSTABLE STATE OF SPAWN'S SYMBIOTIC COSTUME, THE NEXT ABRUPT DRAIN WOULD TRIGGER THE EJECTION OF THE WARRIOR FROM THIS EARTH AND INTO AN EXPEDITION THROUGH HELL.

GREEN NECROPLASMIC ENERGY EXPENDED IN THE CAUSE OF GOOD HAS ONCE AGAIN ADDED TO SPAWN'S MISERY. THE ONLY HOPE REMAINING FOR THE FORMER AL SIMMONS IS AN ETHEREAL CONNECTION TO HIS FRIEND. THOUGH NEITHER IS AWARE OF IT ON ANY LEVEL, THE GREYING AT TERRY'S TEMPLES IS PROOF THE TWO HAD BEEN IN CONTACT...

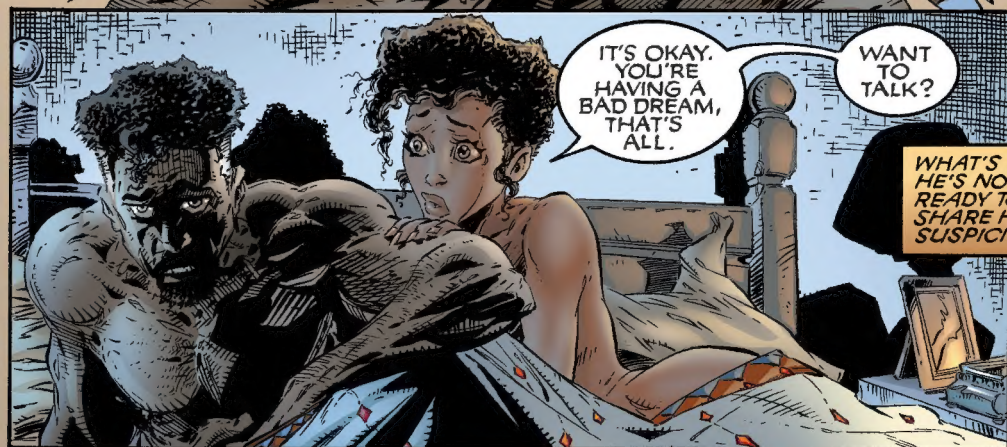
... THAT, AND THE SCRAMBLED IMAGES TRYING TO SPEAK TO TERRY AT NIGHT.



GASP!

JESUS...
AL?

HE'S
READ
THE
SIGNALS
RIGHT.



IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE
HAVING A
BAD DREAM,
THAT'S
ALL.

WANT
TO
TALK?

WHAT'S WORSE,
HE'S NOT
READY TO
SHARE HIS
SUSPICIONS.



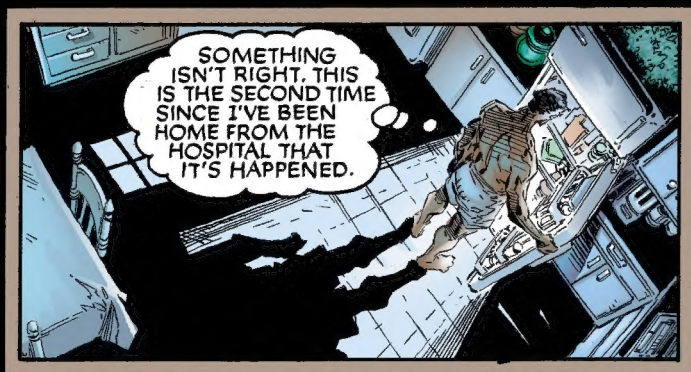
IT WOULD
BRING HER
TOO MUCH
PAIN.

NOT
REALLY.

GO BACK
TO SLEEP.
I'M GOING TO
GET UP FOR
A FEW
MINUTES.



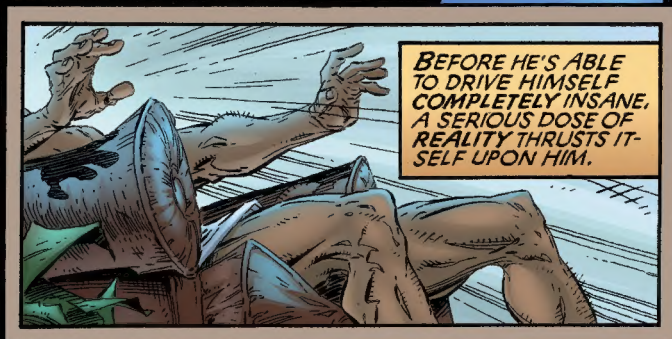
THIS IS
CRAZY. IT'S
BEEN FIVE YEARS.
I HELPED BURY
HIM, FOR CHRIST'S
SAKE.



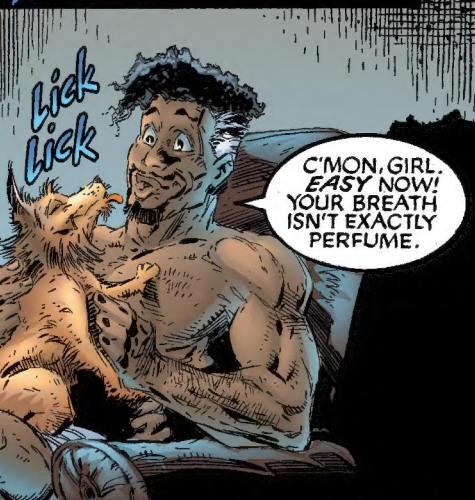
WHY? IS IT SOME SORT IMBALANCE CAUSED BY THE CANCER? THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH 'MIRACULOUS' RECOVERIES-- NO ONE KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GO THROUGH AFTERWARDS.



BUT I SWEAR I CAN FEEL HIM-- HIS EMPTINESS.



BEFORE HE'S ABLE TO DRIVE HIMSELF COMPLETELY INSANE, A SERIOUS DOSE OF REALITY THRUSTS ITSELF UPON HIM.

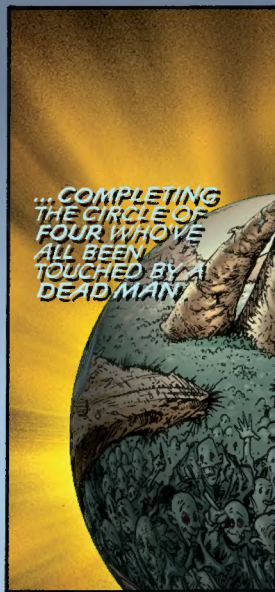


Lick Lick

C'MON, GIRL. EASY NOW! YOUR BREATH ISN'T EXACTLY PERFUME.



SO THE FAMILY PET, ONCE RAISED BY AL SIMMONS HIMSELF, BRINGS A RAY OF LIGHT INTO A POTENTIALLY LONG, DARK NIGHT...



...COMPLETING THE CIRCLE OF FOUR WHO'VE ALL BEEN TOUCHED BY A DEAD MAN.



SINCE REBORN.



FIGHTING TO KEEP HIS SOUL.

THE FIGHT
CONTINUES.

ENTERING HELL'S FIFTH
LEVEL LIKE SOME DARK,
AVENGING ANGEL SHROUDED
IN BLOOD BECOMES HIS
THIRD TEST. IN THE FIRST
TWO HE WAS AN ENEMY.

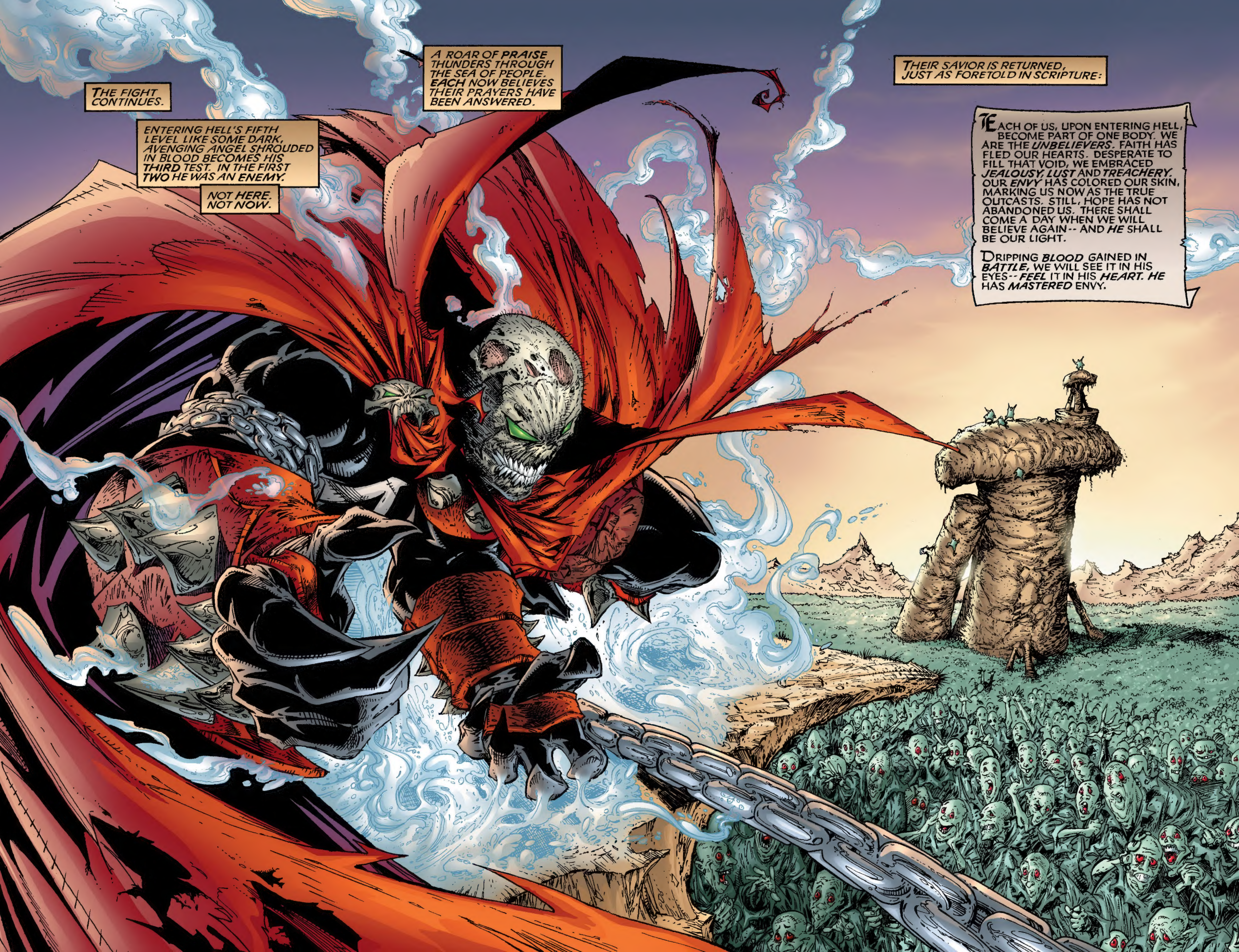
NOT HERE.
NOT NOW.

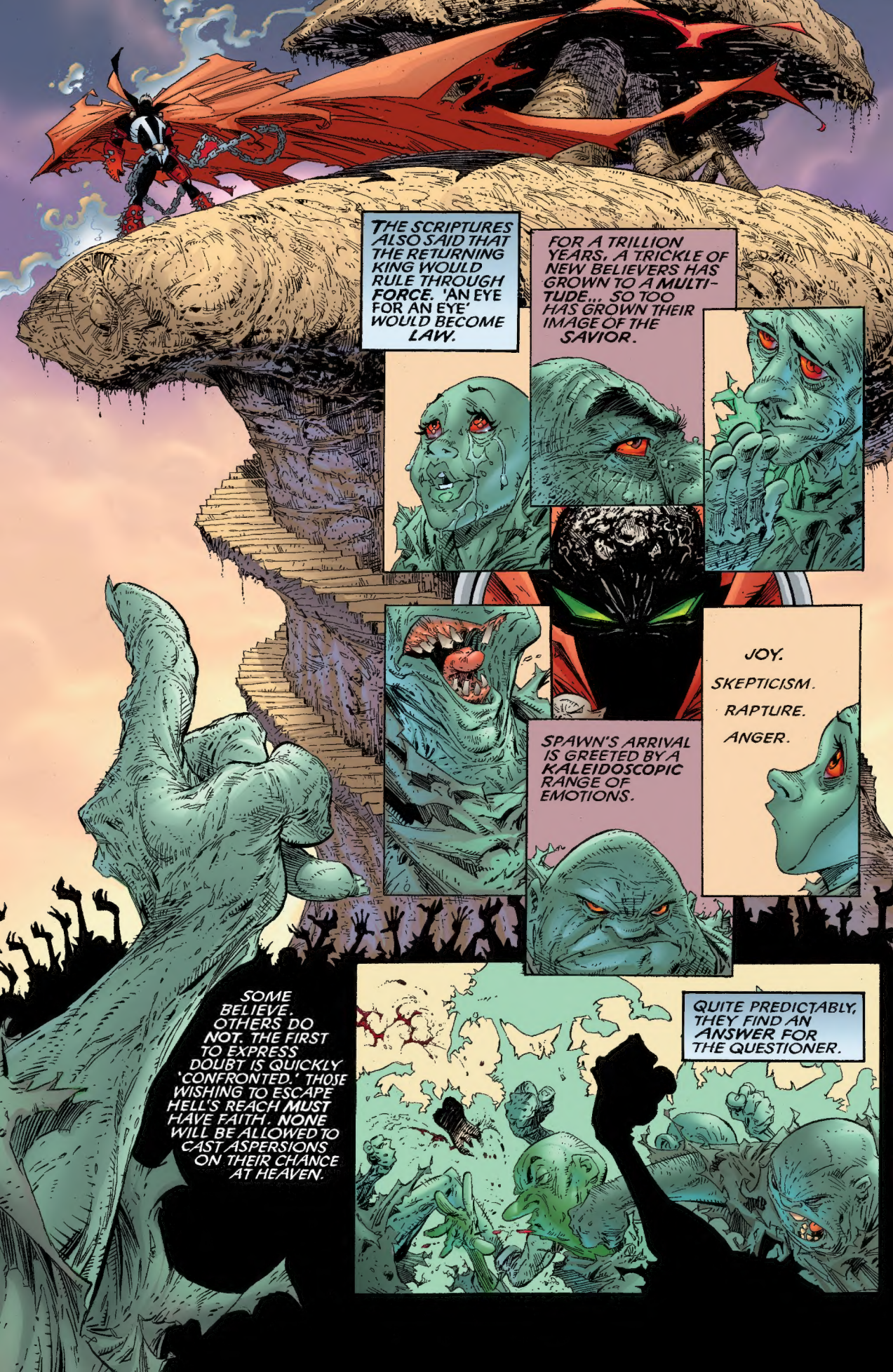
A ROAR OF PRAISE
THUNDERS THROUGH
THE SEA OF PEOPLE.
EACH NOW BELIEVES
THEIR PRAYERS HAVE
BEEN ANSWERED.

THEIR SAVIOR IS RETURNED,
JUST AS FORETOLD IN SCRIPTURE:

TEACH OF US, UPON ENTERING HELL,
BECOME PART OF ONE BODY. WE
ARE THE *UNBELIEVERS*. FAITH HAS
FLED OUR HEARTS. DESPERATE TO
FILL THAT VOID, WE EMBRACED
JEALOUSY, LUST AND *TREACHERY*.
OUR *ENVY* HAS COLORED OUR SKIN,
MARKING US NOW AS THE TRUE
OUTCASTS. STILL, HOPE HAS NOT
ABANDONED US. THERE SHALL
COME A DAY WHEN WE WILL
BELIEVE AGAIN-- AND HE SHALL
BE OUR LIGHT.

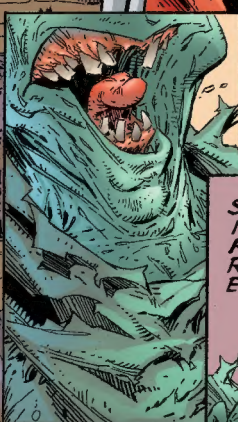
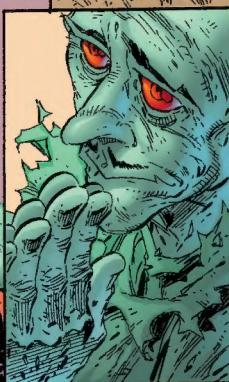
DRIPPING BLOOD GAINED IN
BATTLE, WE WILL SEE IT IN HIS
EYES-- FEEL IT IN HIS *HEART*. HE
HAS MASTERED *ENVY*.





THE SCRIPTURES ALSO SAID THAT THE RETURNING KING WOULD RULE THROUGH FORCE. 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE' WOULD BECOME LAW.

FOR A TRILLION YEARS, A TRICKLE OF NEW BELIEVERS HAS GROWN TO A MULTI-TUDE... SO TOO HAS GROWN THEIR IMAGE OF THE SAVIOR.



JOY.
SKEPTICISM.
RAPTURE.
ANGER.


SPAWN'S ARRIVAL IS GREETED BY A KALEIDOSCOPIC RANGE OF EMOTIONS.



SOME BELIEVE. OTHERS DO NOT. THE FIRST TO EXPRESS DOUBT IS QUICKLY 'CONFRONTED.' THOSE WISHING TO ESCAPE HELL'S REACH MUST HAVE FAITH. NONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO CAST ASPERSIONS ON THEIR CHANCE AT HEAVEN.

QUITE PREDICTABLY, THEY FIND AN ANSWER FOR THE QUESTIONER.






THE BLACK LORD CONTROLLED HIS CHILDREN EFFORTLESSLY BY HAVING EACH WAITING FOR A DEITY THAT HE KNEW WOULD NEVER COME.

WHAT ISN'T PREDICTABLE IS SPAWN BEING THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THE PROPHECIES OF SCRIPTURE WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO COME TO PASS; THEY WERE LIES-- FABRICATIONS OF THE DEVIL WHO RULES UNSEEN OVER THE FIFTH LEVEL.




EACH INDIVIDUAL'S PUNISHMENT WAS TO PRAY AN ETERNITY FOR SALVATION. A FAITH IN THE PROMISES OF SCRIPTURE WAS ALL THEY HAD LEFT.



GET THE HELL OFF ME!!!

THOSE WANTING TO WORSHIP HIM AND THOSE READY TO FLAY HIM STUMBLE OVER EACH OTHER TRYING TO REACH SPAWN FIRST.



THE CLOAKED HERO CARES FOR NEITHER.

ANGER
NOW SEALS
HIS FATE.

LEAVE
ME
ALONE!

IT
IS
HIM!

THE
CHOSEN
ONE.

HE
CONTROLS
THE
ENVY.

IT'S
IN HIS
EYES,
TOO!
LOOK!

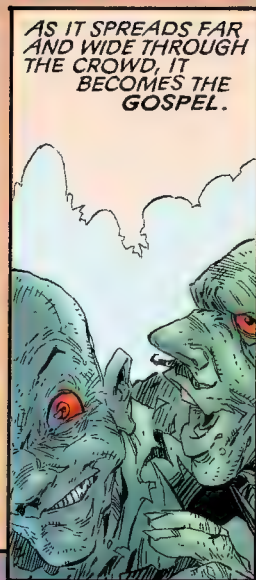
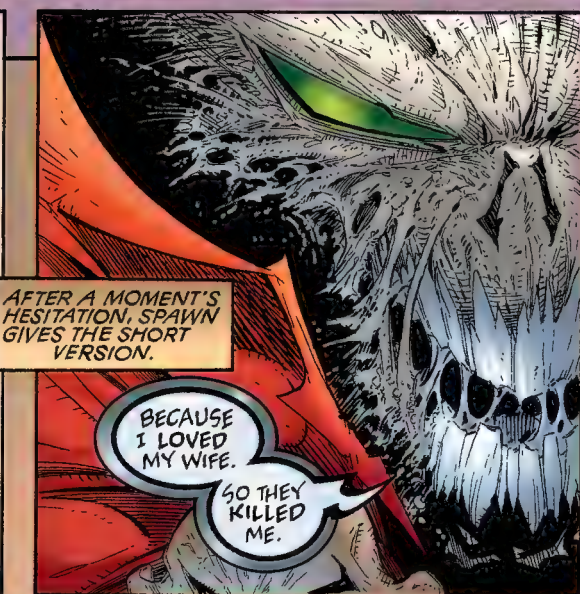
THIS GOD BRINGS
WITH HIM
VALIDATION OF
THEIR HOPES OF
ENTRY TO HEAVEN.
FAITH IS THE KEY
TO HEAVEN'S GATE.

YET, A
PARASITE
LIVES IN
EVERY
COLONY.

EXALTATIONS
FOLLOW, AS
ALL PRESENT
DROP TO
THEIR KNEES.

**STAND
UP!!**

DO NOT BE SO
QUICK TO SUBMIT!
REMEMBER THAT
ANOTHER HAS
COME FORTH
RECENTLY. BOTH
CANNOT BE
ANOINTED!



AN EYE FOR AN EYE. IT'S ALL THEY UNDERSTAND. BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO PROVE TO THEMSELVES THIS IS THE ACTUAL SECOND COMING.

THE MESSIAH MUST PASS A FINAL TEST.

FOR RECENTLY, ANOTHER HAS APPEARED BEFORE THEM.

LIKE THEIRS, HIS SKIN HAS A GREENISH PIGMENT. AND, HE BEARS ANOTHER FEATURE FORETOLD IN SCRIPTURE:

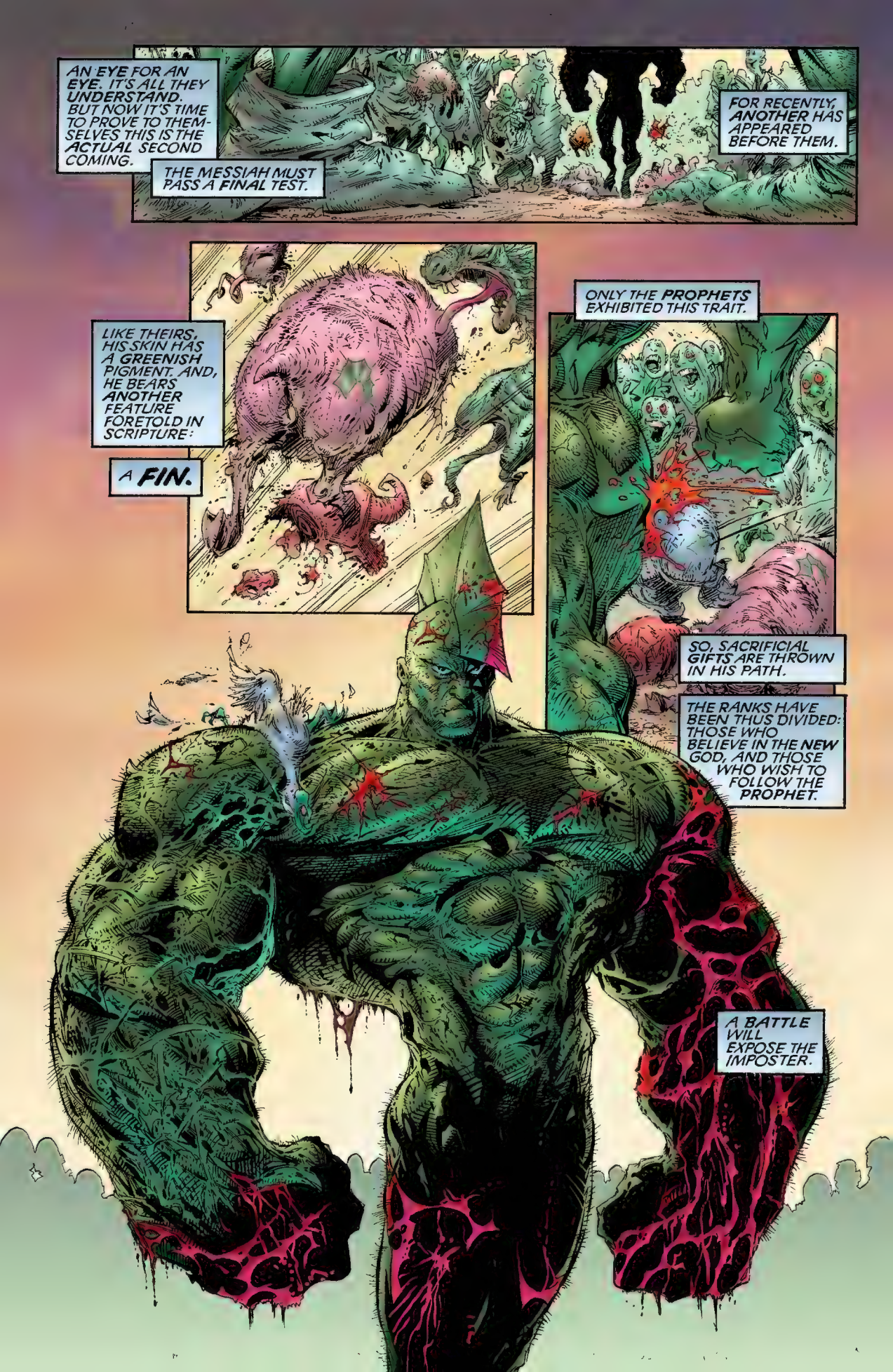
A **FIN.**

ONLY THE PROPHETS EXHIBITED THIS TRAIT.

SO, SACRIFICIAL GIFTS ARE THROWN IN HIS PATH.

THE RANKS HAVE BEEN THUS DIVIDED: THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE NEW GOD, AND THOSE WHO WISH TO FOLLOW THE PROPHET.

A BATTLE WILL EXPOSE THE IMPOSTER.



LET'S
GET THIS
OVER
WITH.

SPAWN STARES INTENTLY FOR A
MOMENT, TRYING TO PLACE HIS NEW
FOE, WITHOUT SUCCESS.

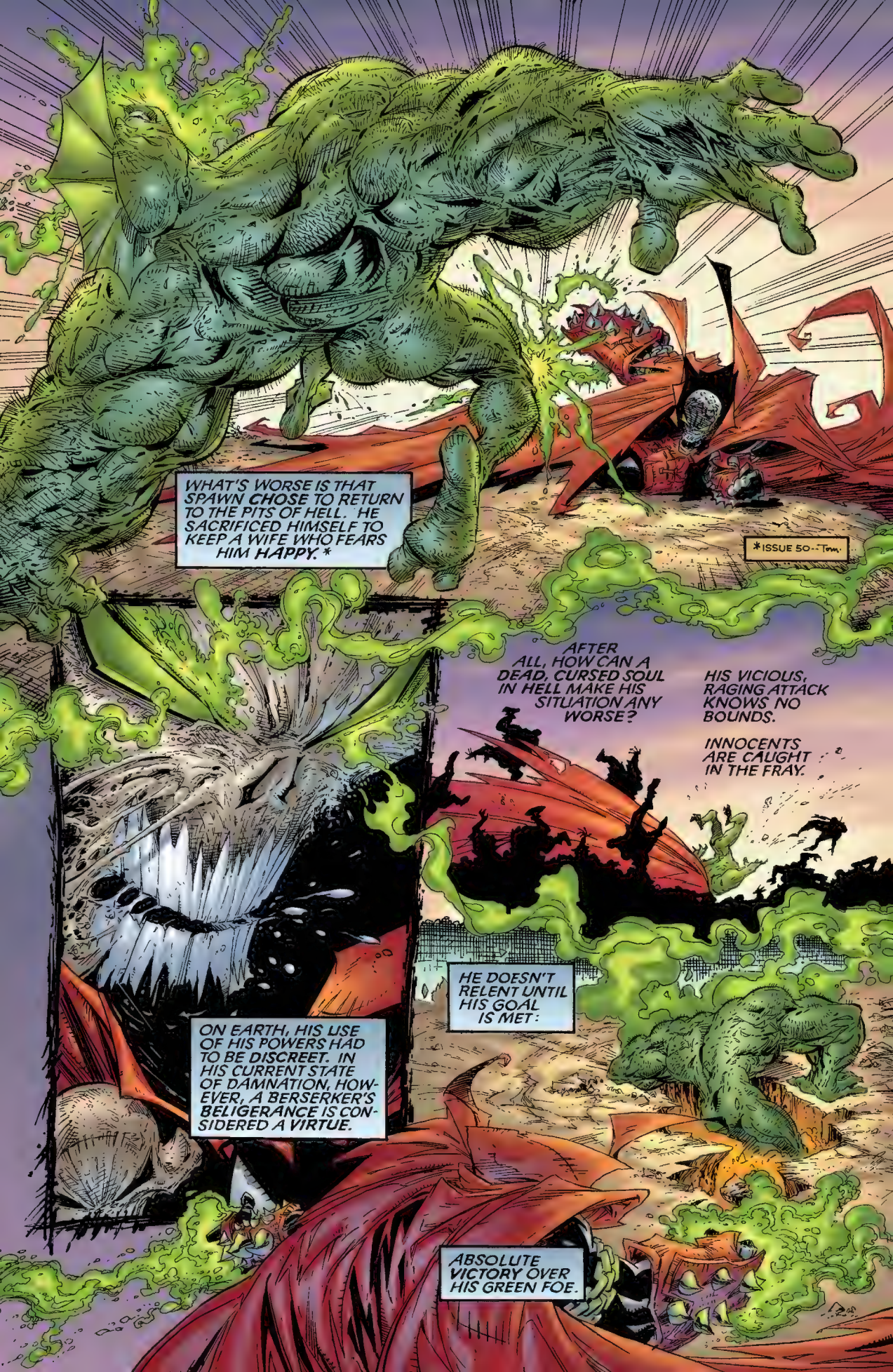
HE TELLS HIMSELF IT'S
JUST ANOTHER STRANGER
TRYING TO BLUR HIS
EXISTENCE.

ANOTHER
OBSTACLE.

HELL HAS BECOME
NO DIFFERENT
FROM EARTH.

ALWAYS ON
THE ATTACK,
OR TAKING
THINGS.

NEVER
GIVING
BACK.

A large, muscular green demon with a wide, toothy grin is lunging forward, his right arm extended towards a smaller, red, bat-like demon. The red demon is recoiling in shock, with green energy splashing around the point of impact. The background is a dark, stormy sky with swirling clouds. In the lower left, a large, jagged, black and white structure, possibly a tomb or a piece of machinery, is partially visible. The overall scene is one of intense action and conflict.

WHAT'S WORSE IS THAT SPAWN CHOSE TO RETURN TO THE PITS OF HELL. HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO KEEP A WIFE WHO FEARS HIM HAPPY.*

*ISSUE 50--TOMMY

AFTER ALL, HOW CAN A DEAD, CURSED SOUL IN HELL MAKE HIS SITUATION ANY WORSE?

HIS VICIOUS, RAGING ATTACK KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

INNOCENTS ARE CAUGHT IN THE FRAY.

HE DOESN'T RELENT UNTIL HIS GOAL IS MET:

ON EARTH, HIS USE OF HIS POWERS HAD TO BE DISCREET. IN HIS CURRENT STATE OF DAMNATION, HOWEVER, A BERSERKER'S BELIGERANCE IS CONSIDERED A VIRTUE.

ABSOLUTE VICTORY OVER HIS GREEN FOE.

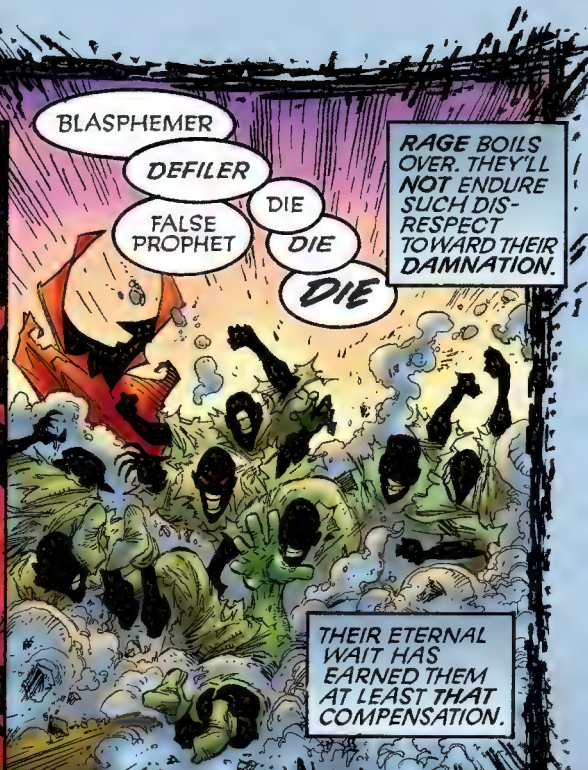


HIS
OPPONENT
DRAWS
A DEEP
BREATH.



THE NEXT
SOUND TO
LEAVE HIS MOUTH
IS LOST IN THE DIN
OF A THOUSAND
FOOTFALLS:

hee
hee



BLASPHEMER

DEFILER

FALSE
PROPHET

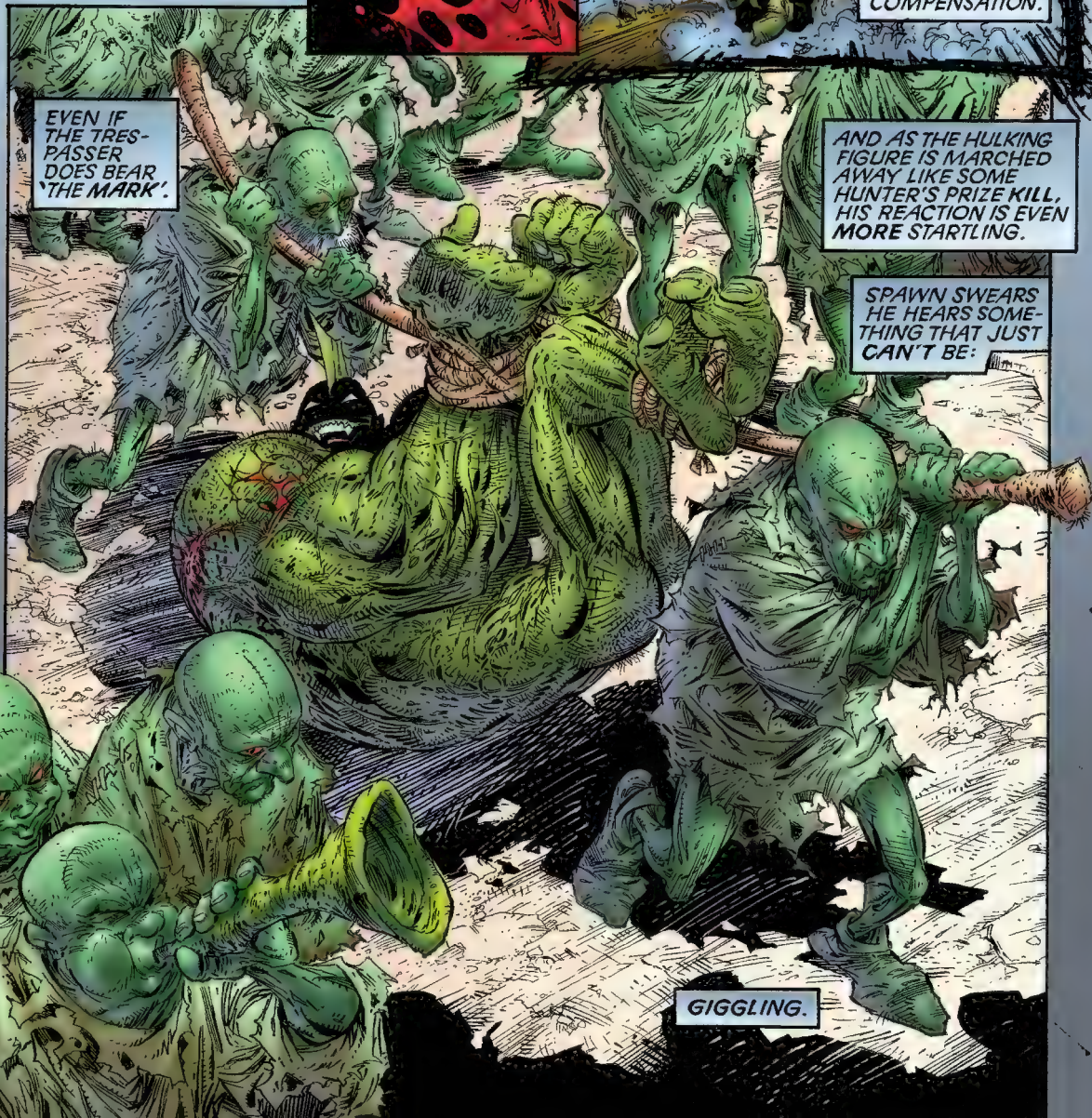
DIE

DIE

DIE

RAGE BOILS
OVER. THEY'LL
NOT ENDURE
SUCH DIS-
RESPECT
TOWARD THEIR
DAMNATION.

THEIR ETERNAL
WAIT HAS
EARNED THEM
AT LEAST THAT
COMPENSATION.



EVEN IF
THE TRES-
PASSER
DOES BEAR
'THE MARK'.

AND AS THE HULKING
FIGURE IS MARCHED
AWAY LIKE SOME
HUNTER'S PRIZE KILL,
HIS REACTION IS EVEN
MORE STARTLING.

SPAWN SWEARS
HE HEARS SOME-
THING THAT JUST
CAN'T BE:

GIGGLING.

A GLORIOUS CELEBRATION ENSUES, ENGULFING MOST OF THE GATHERING. THEIR KING HAS FINALLY COME FOR THEM. ALL SHALL BE SAVED.

WITH ONE EXCEPTION.

SO WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM?

WHEN THE DARKNESS COMES, HE'LL DIE.

WHEN HE APPEARED, HE GAVE US HOPE. HIS **DEFEAT** SHOWS HOW WE WERE **BETRAYED**, MY LORD.

SO HE IS BEING PREPARED-- BEFOULED WITH GRIME, FED HIS LAST MEAL, THEN SHOWERED IN URINE.

HIS CROSS IS BEING READIED. THE STONING WILL TAKE BUT A FEW MINUTES.

CRIMES AGAINST THE FAITH WILL NOT BE PERMITTED. ESPECIALLY THOSE COMMITTED BY HIS KIND.

I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO HIM...
...PRIVATELY.

OF COURSE, MY LORD.

WHAT NOW?
COME HERE
TO DO A
LITTLE
GLOATING?

NOPE.
I DON'T
HAVE TO.
YOU ALREADY
KNOW WHAT
I CAN DO.

STILL, I'M
CURIOUS ABOUT
SOMETHING. OUT OF
ALL YOUR PEOPLE,
WHY WERE YOU
SELECTED TO
TAKE ME ON?

THOSE
AREN'T "MY"
PEOPLE.
LOOK... YOU
WANT TO
FIGURE THIS
OUT. GREAT. TO
ME, THIS IS ALL
SOME SCREWY
DREAM OR
HALLUCINA-
TION.

BUT IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL
ANY BETTER, I'LL SPILL MY GUTS.
SEE, I'M FROM *CHICAGO*, SOME
BIG CITY IN AMERICA. MY JOB IS
TRYING TO CLEAN IT UP, WHICH
MEANS I DEAL WITH PSYCHOS EVERY
DAY. THE LAST ONE WAS SOME BROAD
WHO CALLS HERSELF THE *FIEND*. *
DON'T ASK ME WHY, BUT FOR SOME
REASON SHE'S GOT THIS HARD-ON
TO WIPE ME OUT. SO WE MET, AND
SHE BLEW OFF MY ARMS.

AND THAT'S THE LAST I
RECALL OF *REALITY*.

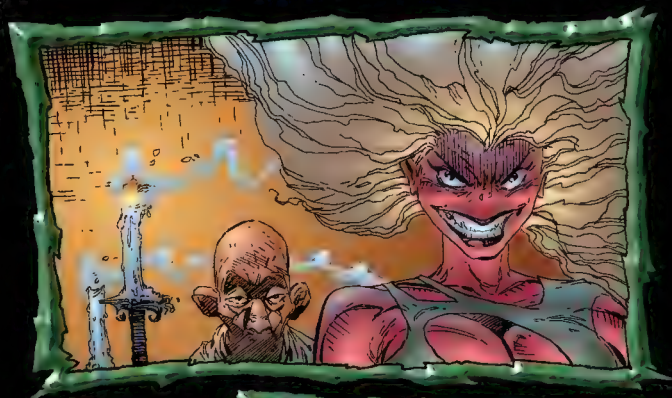
MY GUESS IS, SHE SHOT
ME FULL OF DRUGS AND
I'M TRIPPING OUT
RIGHT NOW--

-- BECAUSE NEXT THING I
KNOW I APPEAR IN *HELL*,
BUCK NAKED, WITH BOTH
ARMS BACK. AND EVERY-
ONE I MEET THINKS I'M
SOME GODDAMN *PROPHET*.
MY *FIN* MEANS SOME-
THING *SPIRITUAL*
TO THEM.

WHEN YOU SHOWED UP,
I WAS REDUCED TO
SECOND BANANA. WHO
WANTS A *PROPHET*
WHEN A *GOD* COMES
CALLING?

BESIDES,
IT REALLY
PISSED THEM OFF
WHEN I SAID
THEIR *MESSIAH*
WOULDN'T APPEAR
FOR ANOTHER
FORTY THOUSAND
YEARS.

AND
THAT
JUSTIFIES
KILLING
YOU?



LIKE I SAID,
THIS IS JUST
SOME *NIGHTMARE*.
THEY WANTED A
FIGHT, I GAVE IT TO
THEM. ONE OF US
HAD TO FAIL.



SO WHO CARES
IF I WASN'T TOUGH
ENOUGH. THAT'S THEIR
PROBLEM.

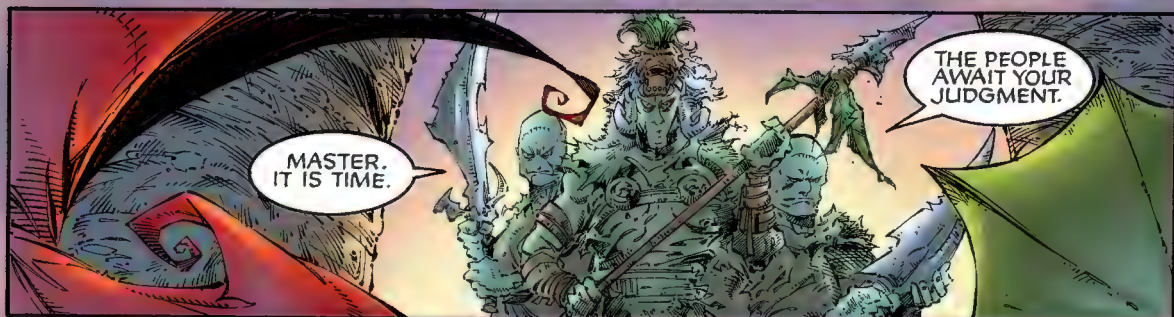
WHAT?!

THAT'S
RIGHT. WHICHEVER
OF US LOST THAT
BATTLE WAS TO BE
EXECUTED. DON'T YOU
SEE? IT'S A WITCH-
HUNT. THEY NEED TO
KILL **ME** TO
JUSTIFY **YOU**.

AND LOGIC
BE DAMNED.

SO YOUR
CRIME IS
NOT BEING
STRONGER?!

WHAT-
EVER. THIS IS
WAY BEYOND
ME.



MASTER.
IT IS TIME.

THE PEOPLE
AWAIT YOUR
JUDGMENT.

SPAWN TRIES
TO MAKE
SENSE OF THIS.
HE CAN'T.
INSTEAD, HE
CHARGES
AHEAD, USING
WHAT HE CAN:

THEIR
BLIND
FAITH.

PEOPLE..
**HEAR
ME!**

FREE HIM
NOW. YOU MUST
LEARN TO TURN
THE OTHER
CHEEK.

THE CROWD
FLIES INTO A
FRENZY.

NO!

NO!

THIS MAN
HAS DONE
NOTHING
WRONG. TO
PERSECUTE
HIM WOULD
BE WRONG.

IF THEY
WANT A
MESSIAH,
SO BE IT.



LIKE A STAMPEDE OF
CATTLE, THE MOB CRUSHES
SPAWN UNDER ITS SHEER
WEIGHT.

RAVENOUS
FOR BLOOD.

NEVER WOULD
THE HOLY LEADER
SUCH A Demean-
ing ORDER AS,
"FORGIVE."

"AN EYE
FOR AN EYE."

SO IT IS
WRITTEN.

SO IT
SHALL BE.

LEGEND HAS
SPOKEN OF THIS
ENEMY ALSO. HOW
THE FALSE GOD
BEARS A SYMBOL
OF HIS VILENESS.

A CALL TO 'TURN
THE OTHER CHEEK'
COMES ONLY FROM
THE GREATEST
SINNER.

SPAWN
DIDN'T
HAVE ONE.
THAT
DIDN'T
MATTER.
HE DID
NOW.

THE CARVING
WAS CRUDE.

YOUR
RECKONING
IS AT HAND.

THEY WILL
SOON KNOW
IN THE OTHER
LEVELS *NOT* TO
TRIFLE WITH OUR
PRAYERS. YOUR
DEATHS SHALL BE
A TRIUMPHAL
TESTAMENT TO
OUR FAITH--

--REDEDICATING
US TO OUR COMING
SALVATION.

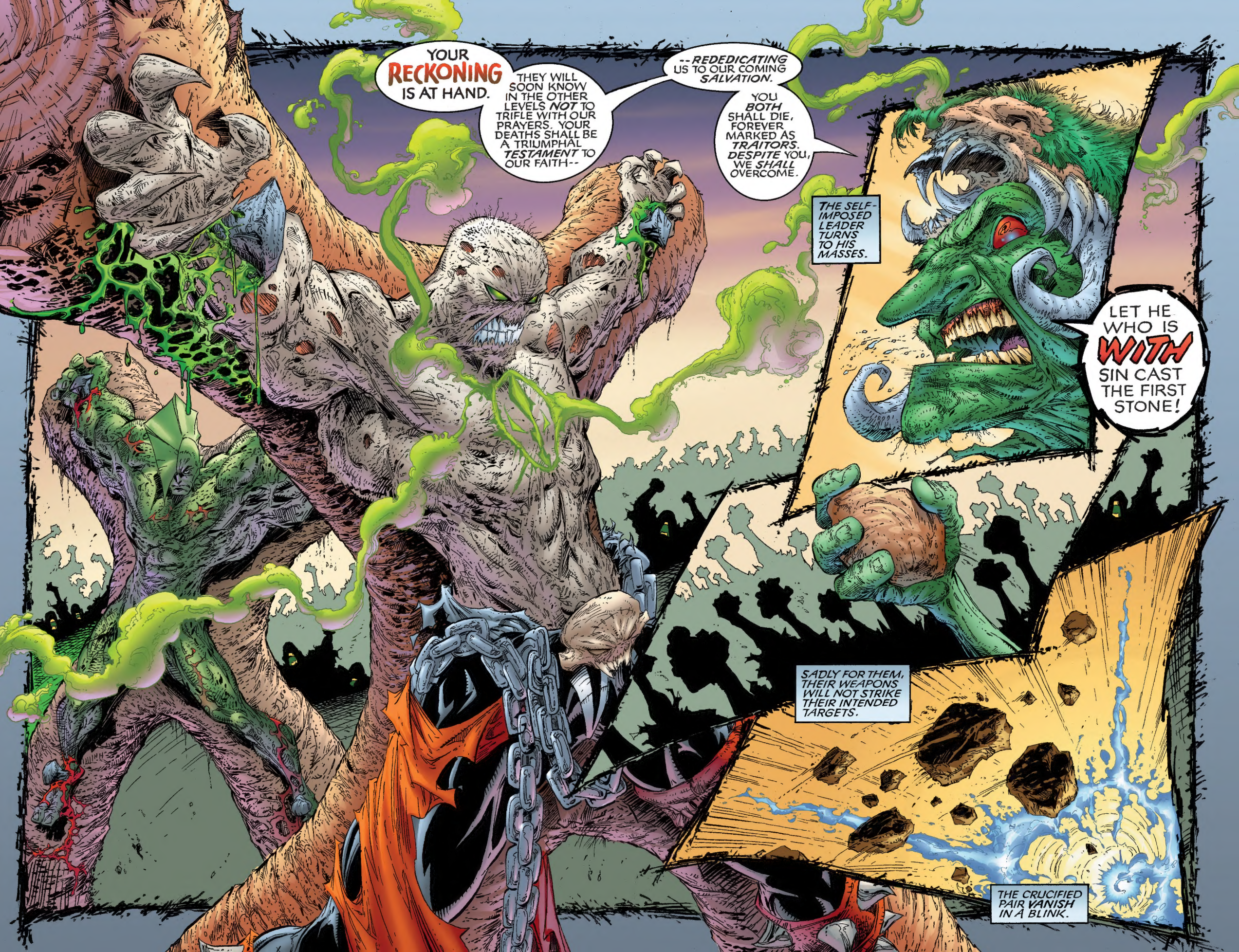
YOU
BOTH
SHALL DIE,
FOREVER
MARKED AS
TRAITORS.
DESPITE YOU,
WE **SHALL**
OVERCOME.

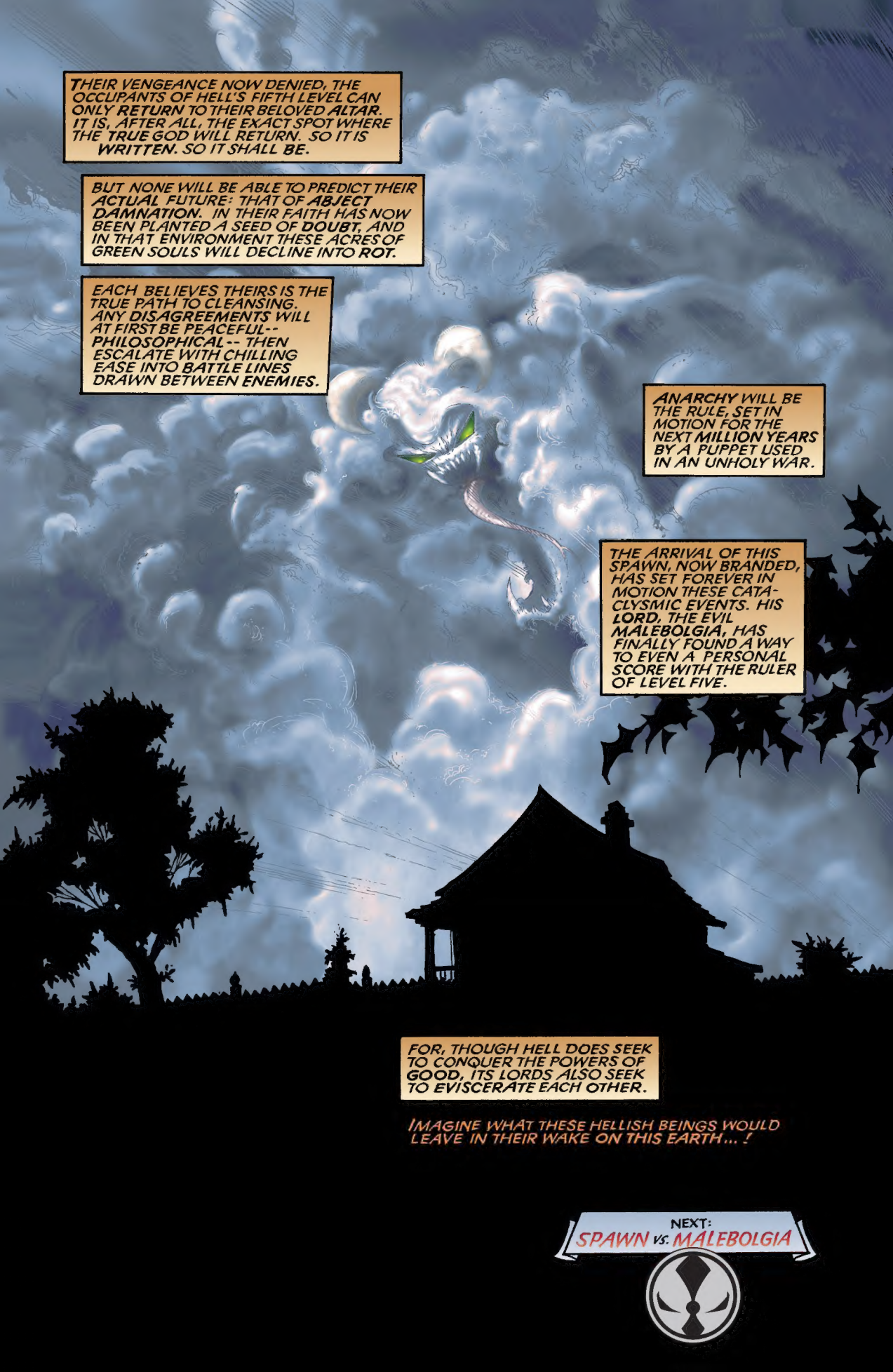
THE SELF-
IMPOSED
LEADER
TURNS
TO HIS
MASSSES.

LET HE
WHO IS
WITH
SIN CAST
THE FIRST
STONE!

SADLY FOR THEM,
THEIR WEAPONS
WILL NOT STRIKE
THEIR INTENDED
TARGETS.

THE CRUCIFIED
PAIR VANISH
IN A BLINK.





THEIR VENGEANCE NOW DENIED, THE OCCUPANTS OF HELL'S FIFTH LEVEL CAN ONLY RETURN TO THEIR BELOVED ALTAR. IT IS, AFTER ALL, THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE TRUE GOD WILL RETURN. SO IT IS WRITTEN. SO IT SHALL BE.

BUT NONE WILL BE ABLE TO PREDICT THEIR ACTUAL FUTURE: THAT OF ABJECT DAMNATION. IN THEIR FAITH HAS NOW BEEN PLANTED A SEED OF DOUBT, AND IN THAT ENVIRONMENT THESE ACRES OF GREEN SOULS WILL DECLINE INTO ROT.

EACH BELIEVES THEIRS IS THE TRUE PATH TO CLEANSING. ANY DISAGREEMENTS WILL AT FIRST BE PEACEFUL-- PHILOSOPHICAL-- THEN ESCALATE WITH CHILLING EASE INTO BATTLE LINES DRAWN BETWEEN ENEMIES.

ANARCHY WILL BE THE RULE, SET IN MOTION FOR THE NEXT MILLION YEARS BY A PUPPET USED IN AN UNHOLY WAR.

THE ARRIVAL OF THIS SPAWN, NOW BRANDED, HAS SET FOREVER IN MOTION THESE CATA-CLYSMIC EVENTS. HIS LORD, THE EVIL MALEBOLGIA, HAS FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO EVEN A PERSONAL SCORE WITH THE RULER OF LEVEL FIVE.

FOR, THOUGH HELL DOES SEEK TO CONQUER THE POWERS OF GOOD, ITS LORDS ALSO SEEK TO EVISCERATE EACH OTHER.

IMAGINE WHAT THESE HELLISH BEINGS WOULD LEAVE IN THEIR WAKE ON THIS EARTH... !

NEXT:
SPAWN vs. MALEBOLGIA





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE